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(54) **VIRTUAL MACHINE PROVISIONING USING
REPLICATED CONTAINERS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A virtual machine manager that provisions of virtual machines on hosts that share a tenant store. Virtual machines can be provisioned using an arraying subsystem of the tenant store without having to actually physically copy all of the operating system files for each virtual machine. Instead, the arraying subsystem virtually copies the operating system files by generating virtual operating system containers that point to a master operating system container that actually contains operating system content in the tenant store. To increase the limit on the number of virtual operating system containers that can be virtually copied from a master operating system container, the master operating system container may itself be physically, rather than virtually copied. Then, virtual operating system containers may be virtually copied from any of the master operating system containers that contain the same operating system content.

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